

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
DECEMBER 28, 2006 – 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Virginia Russell-Russell, Chairman
Ben Moore, Vice-Chairman
Rick Griffin
James Workman
Bill Lally
Mark Gearreald, Interim Town Manager
Maureen Duffy, Administrative Assistant

REGRETS:

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. **Acceptance of turnaround easement for Mill Pond Lane and Glen Road – Second of Two Public Hearings**

Hearing was rescheduled to be held on January 8th.

2. **To accept Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds in the amount of \$22,786.12 from the approved eligible costs resulting from the Mother's Day storm declared on May 31, 2006.**

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to accept FEMA funds in the amount of \$22,786.12 from the approved eligible costs resulting from the Mother's Day storm declared on May 31, 2006. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman Virginia Bridle-Russell called the meeting to order at 7:03PM.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Mr. Lally and Mr. Moore wished Hampton residents a happy and healthy New Year.

II. APPOINTMENTS

1. FINANCE DIRECTOR MIKE SCHWOTZER – YEAR END FINANCIALS

Mr. Schwotzer provided the Selectmen with the general fund expenditure report as of 4PM, December 28th. In 2006, \$2.2 million was budgeted for the Kings Highway construction project. Due to unforeseen circumstances the completion date was pushed back resulting in \$200,000 of long-term principal and interest not needed or used. Instead of the \$200,000 becoming a loan payment it will automatically go back into the general fund for 2007.

Good budgeting and overall management has resulted in \$607,699 as the current operating budget available balance. Mr. Schwotzer presented his analysis on three different unanticipated grants (totaling \$372,169) which have the ability to expand the budget by becoming an expense and income item. When the grants are added back the available balance becomes \$1,064,868.

To include the final four days of payroll (December 27 to 31) within the year end figure, Mr. Schwotzer has estimated an additional expense of \$311,000.

Projects that need to be done this year include the following (Encumbrances):

1. An emergency traffic signal (\$24,120) at the Beach Fire Station to allow the fire trucks to maneuver safely and quickly through traffic.
2. The remediation of the lead paint from the Beach Fire Station (\$23,275) as ordered by the New Hampshire Department of Labor.
3. Twelve replacement armor vests for Hampton Police Officers (\$7,140). Armored vests have a five year life span, the ones currently being used are eight years old.
4. Non-FEMA costs to repair Mill Road that was damaged during the Mother's Day storm (\$47,450).
5. Special Encumbrances: 17 Police uniforms for New Summer Officers along with armored vests (\$33,372)
6. Warrant Article Encumbrances: Ashworth Avenue sewer work (\$18,894), sewer upgrades along Hobbs Road (\$4,940), salt marsh restoration (\$22,778), Lane Memorial Library repairs (\$1,149) and access ramp (\$54,150), Aerial Ladder Truck (\$33,333), Conservation Commission Woodland Road property purchase (\$100,000).

Finance Director Schwotzer requested the Board's approval to encumber a total of \$135,357 for expense items plus \$235,246 for Warrant Article items.

Mr. Schwotzer also presented an analysis of the School Impact Fees to the Selectmen.

Year End Financials - SELECTMEN'S RESPONSE

Mr. Moore inquired if the budgeted revenues are on track. Mr. Schwotzer believes that they are. Mr. Moore has no issues with the encumbrances that have been presented. He also asked about the Police Department's purchase orders (PO) in the amount of \$76,328. Mr. Schwotzer explained that it was \$5,000 for gasoline, \$9,000 for vehicle maintenance, \$5,000 for uniforms, \$10,000 in training supplies and radio maintenance. The majority of these PO's have been in other reports that the Finance Director has brought forward. Mr. Moore asked about the highways and streets PO's. Mr. Schwotzer explained that it includes building maintenance, new generator and the large accrual for the scale. The installation of the scale at the transfer station has been delayed but should be starting very soon. There were some checks going out for the final received invoices as

of today. Mr. Moore asked why the ladder truck was budgeted for only nine months for payments in 2007. Mr. Schwotzer acknowledged the error and explained he had assumed additional three unused 2006 payments would be carried forward.

There has been an engineering study completed for the Library access ramp. Mr. Schwotzer noted that the cost of the ramp can be encumbered without a PO.

Mr. Workman asked if there is a time limit for the number of times that moneys for warrant article items can be encumbered. Mr. Schwotzer explained that two years is the norm for warrant articles but is specific to bonds.

The Board thanked Mr. Schwotzer for all of this work and asked him to send a copy of the expenditure report to the Chairman of the Budget Committee.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to approve the presented encumbrances for expense items totaling \$135,357 and to encumber as itemized the \$235,246.76 for warrant articles. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

III. MINUTES – DECEMBER 18, 2006

Page 1 – under Public Hearing – fifth line – should read: “Mr. Gearreald asked if this was also acceptable to.....”

Page 3 – under Interim Town Manager’s report – last sentence - should read: “December 28” not January 28.

Page 4 – under 2007 Warrant – third paragraph – should read: “.....or anyone else in the Town office.....”

Minutes stand as corrected.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. INTERIM TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

The annual curbside Christmas tree pickup will commence on January 3 through and including the 9th of January. Residents may place their trees out on their regular rubbish collection day for pickup or take their tree to the transfer station.

The Budget Committee has two more scheduled public meetings: Tuesday, January 9, 2007 for Town and School Special Money articles, and Thursday, January 11, 2007 for the Public Hearing on the Town and School Budget, Estimated Revenues, and Special Money Articles.

The Town Manager’s office has received four petitioned warrant articles dealing with the following subjects:

A policy regarding naming new streets and roadways after Hampton residents who have died in the line of duty, either in the U.S. military or in the employment of the Town;

A new appropriation for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Seacoast;

Increasing the number of trustees of the trust funds from 3 to 5; and

An appropriation for Rockingham Nutrition and Meals on Wheels in the same amount as last year.

Hampton Town employees did not get an early release this year on the last work day before Christmas where Christmas Eve fell on a Sunday. Mr. Gearreald recognized Information Technology Engineer, Paul Paquette, for his 4 hours of work on Christmas Day in getting 12 new lap tops on line. Paul's work often occurs during off hours as he needs to work on equipment when it is not in regular use.

A nice article about "Hampton Beach off Season" appeared on December 15, 2006 in the Seacoast New Hampshire web site. Given our warm winter to date, the article talked in particular about the joys of "Walking Happy Hampton in Winter." Some photo views of the Beach also appear in the article.

The Town Offices will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2007. The next Selectmen's meeting will be on Monday, January 8, 2007.

BOARD'S RESPONSE TO THE MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lally asked about the laptops that Mr. Paquette was working on. Mr. Gearreald explained that they are for the emergency service vehicles.

2. 2007 WARRANT – FURTHER DISCUSSIONS

The Selectmen received a petitioned warrant article from Rockingham Nutrition and Meals on Wheels in the form of an appropriation for the same amount as last year. The petition will be separate from the Selectmen sponsored article for the other social services.

Mr. Gearreald said that there was some discussion at the Budget Committee about a \$250,000 installment for a capital fund for the Town wide revaluation. The Board's proposed budget included a less expensive alternative to hire an in-house data collector. Mr. Gearreald also noted that the proposed capital fund for \$250,000 could be petitioned.

Mr. Moore noted that the Board intends to make their recommendations on January 9th for petitioned money articles.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVAL OF CONSERVATION COMMISSION PURCHASE OF ICE POND PROPERTY

In 2006, Hampton voters approved the appropriation of \$100,000 (Article 40) to be used as matching funds to purchase all or part of the property on Woodland Road (Map #95 lot #2 and Map #96 lot #3), around and including a section of the Ice Pond. The Conservation Commission will be using \$150,000 of existing funds to assist in the purchasing of the property.

Currently the Conservation Commission has a handshake deal of \$240,000 for the lot plus the extended wetlands. The property owner and the Commission are still negotiating and are hoping to sign an agreement tomorrow (December 29). The Chairman of the Commission Ellen Goethel will need authorization to sign the document as well as a \$5,000 deposit.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to approve the purchase of the property on Woodland Road (Map #95 lot #2 and Map #96 lot #3) for \$240,000 (inclusive of the \$5,000 deposit) as being negotiated by the Conservation Commission.
Mr. Griffin SECONDED.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

It is likely that the Commission will need the full \$250,000; that is \$240,000 for the purchase of the property and \$10,000 for trails and maintenance.

The Selectmen will be meeting in a non-meeting with legal counsel.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

None

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VIII. CLOSING COMMENTS:

ix. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to adjourn at 7:41PM. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR